

WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

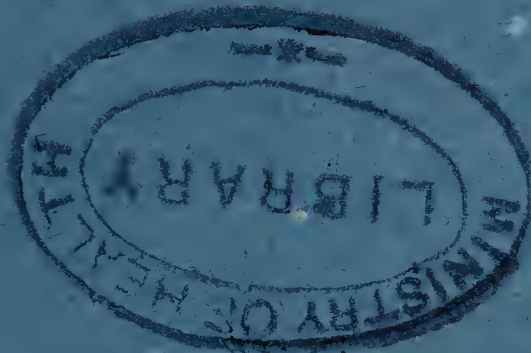
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR - 1950



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P R E F A C E.

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District:-

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The Report is presented as follows:-

- A. Vital Statistics.
- B. General provisions of Health Services for the Area.
- C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
 - 1. Water.
 - 2. Sewerage.
 - 3. Dry Refuse and Rodent Control.
- D. Factories and Workshops.
- E. Housing.
- F. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- G. Prevalence of infectious diseases.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and consideration. I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me by the staff of the Public Health Department, officials in other departments, and by my professional colleagues in practice in the area.

JULY 1951

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

Councillor T.H. Sutton, J.P.

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W.L. Young.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.M.Mayes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, with combined
duties as Surveyor.

W. Hall, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. R.S.I (meat and other foods)

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR, with combined
duties as Surveyor.

W.R.Chick, Cert. R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR with combined duties as
Surveyor.

D.G.Mulley, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. R.S.I (meat and other foods)

<u>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS</u>	<u>Wimborne & Cranborne Rural District</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	14.7.	15.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	17.06.	
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	0.24.	0.37
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	13.23.	11.6
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population using Comparability factor.....	10.06	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.....	22.51.	29.8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950
(Supplied by the Registrar General)

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	0	1	1
2. Acute poliomyelitis.....	1	0	1
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	0	2	2
4. Cancer.....	27	19	46
5. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.....	1	1	2
6. Diabetes.....	0	2	2
7. Vascular Lesions of nervous system.....	14	19	33
8. Coronary Disease.....	27	22	49
9. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	3	4
10. Other heart diseases.....	16	31	47
11. Other diseases of the circulatory system.	13	10	23
12. Bronchitis.....	3	2	5
13. Pneumonia.....	10	3	13
14. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	0	1
15. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum.....	2	1	3
16. Gastritis or enteritis'.....	0	1	1
17. Nephritis or nephrosis.....	1	2	3
18. Pregnancy or childbirth.....	0	1	1
19. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	0	4
20. Congenital malformations.....	0	1	1
21. Suicide.....	0	1	1
22. Motor vehicle accidents.....	0	1	1
23. All other accidents.....	2	1	3
24. All other causes.....	17	16	33

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

In 1950, 311 children were born compared with 308 in 1949, 7 Stillbirths were recorded in 1950 compared with 6 in 1949.

DEATHS

Slightly fewer persons died in 1950 than in 1949. 280 in 1950, 291 in 1949, of these 280, 140 men, 140 women, 174 were over 70 years of age.

The crude death rate was 13.23 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the comparability factor of 0.76, the standardised death rate was 10.06.

The comparability factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out differences of age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enables more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever, nor from cerebro-spinal fever. There was one maternal death and one death from poliomyelitis.

In 1950, 7 children died under one year of age, 4 were premature and died under four weeks of age, the other three died of broncho-pneumonia.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service of the District is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating from the Civic Centre, Wimborne, and from Ferndown. A day and night service is maintained.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

The Staff of the Public Health Laboratories at Dorchester and Poole have given the district very generous service. They undertake the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases or suspected carriers of any infectious disease, and the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre once a week in Wimborne, twice a month in Ferndown, once a month at Verwood and once a month at Sixpenny Handley.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic twice a month in Wimborne.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

A Home Help Service commenced during the year under the Dorset County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

Eight parishes are provided with piped supplies by Statutory Water Undertakers. Of these, the parishes of Colehill, Hampreston, West Parley and Pamphill are within the Statutory area of, and supplied by, the Bournemouth Water Undertakers. Only a very small part of the Parish of Pamphill has a piped supply (that portion adjacent to Wimborne)

Corfe Mullen is in the Statutory Area of, and supplied by the Poole Corporation.

The Rural District Council has provided piped supplies in the parish of Alderholt, Cranborne and Verwood. Water is purchased in bulk from the West Hants Water Company to supply Alderholt, a deep bore-hole adequately supplies Cranborne, whilst Verwood is partly fed from springs on Boveridge Heath and partly from a bulk supply purchased from the West Hants Water Company and taken at Three Legged Cross.

In 1950, owing to the wet summer, the springs on the heath gave a much better yield and the amount of bulk supply taken from the West Hants Water Company at Three Legged Cross was considerably less than in 1949.

Private piped supplies serve the majority of the properties in the parishes of Hinton Martel, Long Crichel, Moor Crichel and Witchampton. These private sources will eventually be abandoned and the area either supplied in bulk or direct from the Council's Regional Scheme when this comes into operation.

The approximate population with piped water available is 14,580, and those dependent on wells or stored rainwater, approximately 7,000. 556 properties are supplied with piped water at Verwood, 130 properties at Cranborne and 136 at Alderholt, and of these, all have water laid on internally with the exception of 21 properties which have separate standpipes in the gardens, and seven temporary structures at Verwood are supplied by two standpipes.

A summary of the bacteriological results of samples of water taken by the Sanitary Inspector is given below:-

P R I V A T E

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>
Alderholt.....		2	-	-	2
Chalbury.....		1	1	-	2
Colehill.....		-	-	-	1
Corfe Mullen.....		2	2	-	-
Cranborne.....		2	-	1	1
Gussage St. Michael.....		-	-	-	2
Hampreston.....		1	-	-	-
Hinton Martoll.....		-	-	-	1
Holt.....		-	1	1	3
Horton.....		1	-	1	7
Crichel.....		1	-	-	-
Pamphill.....		-	-	-	-
Shapwick.....		2	-	-	2
Sixpenny Handley.....		2	-	1	-
Sturminster Marshall.....		37	18	19	32
Verwood.....		10	-	2	-
West Parley.....		-	-	1	-
Woodlands.....		-	-	-	2

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>
Alderholt.....		9	1	-	-
Chalbury.....	+	-	-	-	-
Colehill.....		-	-	-	-
Corfe Mullen.....		-	-	-	-
Cranborne.....		9	1	-	1
Gussage St. Michael.....	+	-	-	-	-
Hampreston.....		-	-	-	-
Hinton Martell.....	+	-	-	-	-
Holt.....		-	1	-	1
Horton.....	+	-	-	-	-
Crichel.....	+	-	-	-	-
Pamphill.....		-	-	-	-
Shapwick.....	+	-	-	-	-
Sixpenny Handley.....	+	-	-	-	-
Sturminster Marshall.....		2	-	-	-
Verwood.....		9	1	-	-
West Parley.....		1	-	-	-
Woodlands.....	+	-	-	-	-

+ The parishes marked with an asterisk have no main water supply.

The grade 4 Sample in Cranborne was the result of a fractured main. This received immediate attention, and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The grade 4 Sample in Holt was the first sample taken from a new borehole. The organisms were non-faecal, improvement occurred on further sampling.

Explanation of the standards and classification of water,
based on presumptive findings.

Non-chlorinated piped supplies.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Count per 100 ml

Class 1.....	Highly satisfactory	- less than 1
Class 2.....	Satisfactory.	- 1 - 2
Class 3.....	Suspicious.	- 3 - 10
Class 4.....	Unsatisfactory.	- greater than 10

Throughout the year 50 per cent of samples should fall into Class 1, 80 per cent should not fall below Class 2, and the remainder should not fall below Class 3.

In chlorinated piped supplies the water should come into Class 1, and efficient chlorination should yield a water free from Coli-aerogenes organisms in 100 ml.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is no main drainage in the district, the majority of the properties have cesspools or septic tanks and soakaways which are a continual source of nuisance and at time create insanitary conditions.

It is hoped that early in 1951 a Public Inquiry will be held on the proposed joint sewerage scheme for West Parley, Hampreston, Colehill and part of Pamphill.

The larger Housing Estates developed by the Council have been provided with their own small sewage disposal plants.

In the future it would be advisable to secure more suitable sites for the placing of the sewage disposal works serving Council Housing Estates. It appears that the present installations have been placed in odd corners close to a ditch or small stream and in too close proximity to the houses.

I feel very strongly that more care should be taken to avoid the difficulties that have been experienced in the operation of the present sewage works.

Early in the year, work was commenced on the Cranborne drainage system. Owing to the heavy rainfall, work was considerably delayed in laying the sewers in the lower part of the village where the water table remained high throughout the year.

In Sturminster Marshall, there are a number of cottages that obtain their drinking water from shallow wells, situated in close proximity to one of the sewage disposal works serving a number of Council Houses. The effluent from the works is irrigated into the subsoil. A series of analyses from samples taken from these shallow wells showed evidence of pollution and the Council decided to make provision for the chlorination of the effluent from this works and the other sewage works nearby. In addition, main water will be extended to the cottages as soon as possible.

CESSPOOLS.

These are emptied upon request of ratepayers at a charge of 25/- per load. The new cesspool emptying vehicle has proved a great success. It has been in constant demand and working to full capacity with the exception of a short period from July to mid-August. The contents of the vehicle have been disposed of satisfactorily.

3. SCAVENGING

Collections are made fortnightly in the parish of Cranborne, three-weekly in the semi-urban parishes and monthly in the rural parishes. Refuse has been tipped in private pits, one at White Sheet and the other at Somerley. The closing of the tip at Stoncy Down, Corfe Mullen, has increased the load which has to be dealt with at White Sheet, with the result that the existing site is rapidly being filled and it will soon be necessary for a second area on the west side of the gravel road to be utilised.

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which became operative in April 1950, has defined the position of Local Authorities more clearly in relation to their obligations to deal with rodents and similar pests in this area.

A summary of the Rodent Operator's work is appended:-

<u>No. of visits</u> <u>during year</u>	<u>Baits</u> <u>Visited.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Council</u> <u>Tips</u>	<u>Mice.</u>
2,338.	656	146	43	9	4

MORTUARY

The Council considered there was a need for a small mortuary in or near Wimborne. The ex-army one at Kingston Lacy was considered suitable but negotiations do not appear to have made any progress.

SECTION D - FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Number of factories registered in the district is 78

The number of inspections made during the year was 17

Particulars of the inspection of factories are set out below:-

<u>The Factories Act, 1937</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.	16	-	-
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.	62	17	-
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Nil	-	-
TOTALS.	78	17	-

There were 28 outworkers in 1950. No infectious disease occurred during the year in any of the premises where outworkers were employed.

SECTION E - HOUSING

During 1950 detailed survey was made of 80 dwellings which were classified as follows:-

Category 1(houses reasonably fit in all respects).....	17
Category 2(houses needing minor repairs).....	20
Category 3(houses needing major repairs).....	16
Category 5(houses impossible to repair at reasonable cost)	27

80.

Thus bringing the total number surveyed to date, 1323, the classification of these premises in the various parishes is set out in the attached table:-

<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>11.</u>	<u>111.</u>	<u>V.</u>	<u>Other.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Alderholt.	43	42	14	12	-	111
Chalbury.	-	2	2	1	-	5
Colchill.	33	26	13	4	-	76
Corfe Mullen.	94	41	33	4	-	172
Cranborne.	28	63	17	12	-	120
Edmondsham.	4	24	3	2	1	34
Gussage All Sts.	-	1	4	5	-	10
Gussage St.Michaels.	4	12	12	2	3	33
Hampreston.	11	7	7	8	-	33
Hinton Martell.	-	2	1	2	-	5
Hinton Parva.	-	1	-	-	-	1
Holt.	-	4	5	1	-	10
Horton.	3	12	5	45	-	65
Long Crichel.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Moor Crichel.	-	1	1	-	-	2
Pamphill.	46	28	23	53	-	150
Pentridge.	12	21	14	6	2	55
Shapwick.	-	7	12	40	-	59
Sixpenny Handley.	55	36	37	36	1	165
Sturminster Marshall.	-	9	16	8	-	33
Verwood.	3	2	6	2	-	13
West Parley.	5	20	6	1	-	32
Wimborne St. Giles.	3	20	35	9	1	68
Witchampton.	3	2	4	3	-	10
Woodlands.	4	8	16	30	2	60
<u>TOTALS.</u>	349	391	286	287	10	1323

In addition, visits have been made to 205 premises previously surveyed for the purpose of obtaining up to date information on housing requirements for the parishes concerned.

The Housing Survey has been completed in eleven parishes:- Alderholt, Cranborne, Edmondsham, Gussage St. Michaels, Horton, Pamphill, Shapwick, Sixpenny Handley, Wimborne St. Giles, Woodlands. Partial survey has been carried out in the remaining parishes.

It has been found that in the more rural parts of the district, a high proportion of the dwellings are in a low category, probably due to absence of any appreciable new building over a period of many years. At the same time many of such dwellings are so classified by reason of low room heights, small windows, and absence of services and amenities rather than serious structural defects or advanced disrepair. By comparison with the housing survey records and the applications for tenancy of Council Houses, it may be seen that the parishes with the largest number of applicants are not those with a high proportion of low category houses. The problem of housing families without separate accommodation appears to remain greater than that of rehousing families from low category houses. Therefore, it has been of more practical value to carry out housing inspections primarily in conjunction with the investigation of housing applications or as a result of complaint or known dangerous or insanitary conditions rather than a complete parochial survey upon which no general action can be taken by reason of lack of alternative accommodation and licencing restrictions on reconditioning works.

HOUSING ACT 1936-49

Statutory Action

Notices of time and place served.....	19
Demolition orders made.....	3
Undertakings given re future use.....	13
Undertakings given to repair.....	4
Repairs carried out in accordance with undertakings	
(a) given 1950.....	3
(b) given prior 1950.....	2
Premises demolished - by the owner.....	3
by the Council.....	Nil

In addition, undertaking has been given by the owner that nineteen dwellings in Pamphill shall not, upon vacation, be re-occupied unless made habitable to the Council's satisfaction.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

No improvement grant has been approved during the year, two applications have been received but were not admissable:- in one case the property was to remain "tied", and in the other case, works had been commenced before approval of the application.

Numerous inquiries have been made regarding the grant, and whenever desired owners have been met on the site to discuss the proposed works. It has been found that owners of agricultural dwellings will not take advantage of the Act as they wish to retain cottages for letting only to their workers.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There has been an increasing number of applications for licences to station movable dwellings. Present legislation appears inadequate as it was not designed to deal with the situation that has arisen since the end of the War. Owing to the housing shortage, many people have been forced to use these structures as permanent homes which is not satisfactory.

SECTION FINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.MILK

Sampling Officers of the County Council have taken routine samples of milk, either produced or distributed in the area. A summary of the bacteriological results are given below:-

Alderholt

8 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Chalbury

1 sample taken - satisfactory.

Colehill

6 samples taken, five satisfactory, one unsatisfactory.

Corfe Mullen.

5 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Cranborne

6 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Edmondsham

1 Sample taken - satisfactory

Farnham.

2 Samples taken - satisfactory

Gussage Villages.

3 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Hamprostons, Longham, Ferndown, Stapchill .

23 Samples taken, 21 samples satisfactory, two unsatisfactory.

Holt

11 Samples taken - all satisfactory.

Horton

4 Samples taken - all satisfactory.

Pamphill

8 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Woodyates and Pentridge

2 Samples taken - satisfactory.

Shapwick

One sample taken - satisfactory

Sixpenny Handley

12 Samples taken - all satisfactory

Sturminster Marshall and Bailey Gate

23 Samples taken, 21 satisfactory, two unsatisfactory

Verwood, Ashley Heath, Three Cross

18 samples taken - all satisfactory

West Moors

14 samples taken - 8 satisfactory, 6 unsatisfactory

Witchampton

4 samples taken - all satisfactory.

Winborne St. Giles

2 samples taken, one satisfactory, one unsatisfactory.

ICE CREAM

There are 38 promises in the Rural District registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

During the year samples of Ice Cream were taken for bacteriological examination, the results are tabulated below:-

Alderholt

5 samples taken..... 3 Grade 1, 1 Grade 2, 1 Grade 3.

Colchill

1 sample taken - grade 1.

Corfe Mullen

4 samples taken..... 2 Grade 1, 2 Grade 2.

Cranborne

5 samples taken - all Grade 1

Gussage Villages.

2 samples taken - 1 Grade 2, one Grade 3

Hamprostons, Longham, Ferndown, Stapohill

17 samples taken 12 grade 1, 2 grade 2, 3 grade 4.

Sixpenny Handley

1 sample taken - grade 1

Sturminster Marshall and Bailie Gate

1 sample taken - grade 1

Verwood, Ashley Heath and Three Cross

7 samples taken - all grade 1

West Moors

2 samples taken - both grade 1

Witchampton

2 samples taken - both grade 1.

The test used is the methylene blue reduction test recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Grade 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory, Grade 3 suspicious and Grade 4 unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT

There is no slaughterhouse operating within the Rural District. Every effort was made to examine the majority of pigs killed for home consumption. Routine inspections of butchers shops were made. 10 condemnation certificates were issued. These included condemnations in respect of 105 lbs of home killed beef, 260 lbs imported beef and mutton and $13\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of tinned beef.

I am anxious that in the near future steps should be taken to secure an improvement in conditions and general hygiene in all premises where food is handled, sold or stored. The advent of the Food Handling Byo-laws relating to these premises will provide an additional lever in securing such improvements.

SECTION G

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

Scarlet fever.....	12
Whooping Cough.....	102
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	2
Measles.....	15
Acute Pneumonia.....	26
Erysipelas.....	3
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	4
Malaria (contracted abroad)....	1
Paratyphoid B.....	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the register on December 31st, 1950 was:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
43	27	11	7

Total... 88

New Cases notified during 1950:-

Pulmonary:- 5 Male 6 Female. Non-Pulmonary:- 1 Male 1 Female.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

Room disinfection was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors on seven occasions.

Few cases of infectious disease of a serious nature were notified during the year. A mild epidemic of whooping cough occurred in the early spring. Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified, one non-paralytic, one paralytic - the latter died.

The case of paratyphoid made an uneventful recovery.

During the latter part of the year, there was a mild epidemic of gastro-enteritis in the more populated area of the district. The dissemination of the disease appeared to have no connection with food and was probably spread by droplet infection.

<u>AGES.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>	<u>Erysipelas</u>	<u>Malaria</u>	<u>Acute Poliomyelitis</u>
0 - 1.		4					
1 - 3.	1	19	4	2			1
3 - 5	2	27	6	3			1
5 - 10	8	47	4				
10 - 15		3	1	3			
15 - 25				3			
25 - 45	1	2		10	2	1	
<u>AGE</u>	<u>Paratyphoid</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</u>				
0 - 1						4	
15 - 25			1				
25 - 45	1						

